



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management
Crisis management and preparedness in health

Luxembourg, 22 January 2020

Health Security Committee

Summary

the cluster of pneumonia cases associated with novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, China

Chair: Wolfgang Philipp, SANTE C3

Audio participants: AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, ISL, LT, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, SI, ECDC, DG RTD, DG ECHO, WHO Euro, WHO HQ, EMA (57 people participated)

The meeting was chaired by the Commission (DG SANTE), with representatives from ECDC, WHO and DG RTD.

Member States were represented by representatives from their respective ministries of Health

The **ECDC** presented their Rapid Risk Assessment of 22nd of January and emphasized that many elements are still unknown: no epidemiological curve has been shared (with data description of cases), the source of exposure is unclear (potential second market), the extend of the zoonotic transmission is unknown.

Main conclusions are:

- The potential impact of 2019-nCoV outbreak is **high**
- Further global spread is **likely**
- For travellers visiting Wuhan : the likelihood of infection is **moderate**
- For cases being important to countries with the greatest volume of people traveling to and from Wuhan : the likelihood is **moderate**
- For detection of imported cases in the EU/EEA : the likelihood is **moderate**
- For secondary infection by a reported case, under appropriate infection prevention and control practices are adhered to : likelihood is **low**.

Some Member States (notably Italy and France) confirmed that they have in place some **response measures and specifically travel advice for travellers to Wuhan**; several countries do not advice against any non-essential travel.

DG RTD noted that they are considering and discussing the mobilization of emergency fund.

ECDC confirmed that it will update the risk assessments regularly and develop leaflets with basic information on advice for travellers, to the public and health professionals

Member States were asked to further

- share travel advice
- report on measures or plans regarding entry screening, or other measures at entry points
- inform in writing on clinical management capacities available (stocks of antivirals, shortages), dedicated hospitals (isolation facilities, respiratory treatment, PPE) etc.

DG SANTE will

- discuss with EASA on information exchange related to air traffic/contact tracing as well as with air flight operators to share incoming airlines passenger data timely
- provide guidelines for entry screening, mapping laboratory and other capacities to the HSC from 23 January onwards
- Circulate a survey on preparedness on capacities, including capacities to manage nCoV, based on survey developed by ECDC.
- Continue to closely monitor the developments with ECDC and WHO, regularly update the HSC and convene the HSC to coordinate preparedness and responses as necessary.